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A New Race of the *Lizard Sceloporus melanorhinus* from Guatemala

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Published reports on the range of *Sceloporus melanorhinus* Bocourt have indicated that the species occurs only at relatively low elevations (about 4000 ft. above sea level, maximum upper range) on Pacific slopes of Mexico, from Nayarit southeastward to the Isthmus of Tehuantepec in the state of Oaxaca. Rather intensive field work strongly indicates that the species does not extend eastward along the Pacific coast in Chiapas, the only area into which its southern range might reasonably extend. Under no circumstances would an extension onto Atlantic slopes anywhere be regarded as a reasonable probability. Accordingly the discovery by Dr. L. C. Stuart of the species in the upper Guatemalan valley of the Atlantic drainage Rio Grijalva is of great interest as (1) an extensive addition to the known range of the species, (2) the first demonstration of the existence of the species on Atlantic slopes, and (3) the presentation of a zoogeographic anomaly for which I know of no exact parallel among reptiles and amphibians.

As might well be anticipated, the Guatemalan specimens differ somewhat from Mexican examples, and may be regarded as samples of a new race here named

Sceloporus melanorhinus stuarti, subsp. nov.

Type Specimens: Holotype, University of Michigan, Museum of Zoology 96759, adult male, Finca Canibal, elevation about 3000 feet above sea level, Huehuetenango, Guatemala, collected April 18, 1947, by L. C. Stuart. Paratype, Univ. Michigan, Mus. Zool. 96760, adult female, data as for holotype.

Diagnosis: A member of the species *Sceloporus melanorhinus*, having (1) the distinctive orange chest and purple, yellow and blue sides of belly in males, (2) four enlarged supraoculars, the rear in contact with the median head scales, and (3) a large number of femoral pores. Differs from all other races

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of the species in the reduction of the lateral nuchal pocket, which possesses very few if any granules, very little if any bare (scaleless) skin, and little depth; and differs from *S. m. melanorhinus* by the lesser number of femoral pores (17 to 19, average 18.25, as opposed to 18 to 27, average 21.6, in *S. m. melanorhinus*).

Description of Holotype: Dorsal head scales pitted; four enlarged supraoculars, the rear broadly in contact with parietal; one row of small scales between enlarged supraoculars and superciliaries; three frontonasals in contact with each other; prefrontals separated from each other by a small scale; a small scale between frontoparietals. Two canthals; one loreal; two rows of lorilabials, complete even below subocular; preocular not divided. Chin shields two, the anterior in contact with first infralabial. Three auricular lobules; lateral nuchal pocket shallow, with no granules, and no bare skin except small areas of normal size between the scales. Dorsal scales 29 from occiput to base of tail; femoral pores 18-19.

Snout to vent, 92 mm.; tail broken; snout to occiput, 20 mm.; snout to posterior edge of tympanum, 24.5 mm.; tibia 18 mm.

Dorsal surface gray, darker on head; a broad light bar across head just in front of eye; a large nuchal dark spot, bordered on either side by a light line one scale wide; no dark bars visible on body. A few dim bars on forelegs, no markings on hind legs. Chest, a narrow and interrupted line down middle of belly, and interfemoral area orange, lighter in interfemoral area; a longitudinal, very light purplish blue streak on either side of median orange streak, and lateral to the blue a greenish yellow streak. A large rear central gular light blue spot, bordered successively by darker blue and greenish yellow; sides of throat, jaws and mental region light, stippled with black.

Paratype: The female paratype possesses 28 dorsal scales and 17-19 femoral pores. The sides of the belly are faintly greenish yellow; the darker dorsal color encroaches considerably onto the sides of the belly. The gular region is very sharply marked with narrow black lines; a median posterior blue spot is faintly visible. Limbs with distinct, narrow dark crossbands, those of the rear at the sacrum, of the anterior a short distance back of the level of the axilla. The scales on the hind leg are notably smaller than in the male.

Remarks: In addition to the peculiarities cited in the diagnosis, *S. m. stuarti* may also possess others in pattern. The male lacks the black gular markings so characteristic of the other races, but one specimen of *S. m. calligaster* examined is very similar to the type of *S. m. stuarti* in this respect; it was in ecdysis when preserved, however, and for that reason may be in an abnormal color state (the type of *S. m. stuarti* is a perfectly preserved specimen

in a stage between ecdyses). The female of *S. m. stuarti* possesses unusually distinct gular dark lines, but one *S. m. calligaster* is similar.

It is of interest that the femoral pore count of the new race apparently closely parallels the count of the most distinct race (*S. m. calligaster*), not that of the geographically closest (*S. m. melanorhinus*). This may imply a more or less ancestral position for the latter race.

The extraordinary sexual dimorphism in this species in the size of scales on the hind legs deserves emphasis. It occurs in all races.

Although taken in the Atlantic drainage, the locale of this new species is one of xeric conditions, not unlike those characterizing the Pacific side of the Tehuantepec Isthmus. In the vicinity of Finca Canibal, *espinal* is the dominant vegetation type of the Cuilco Valley. The specimens at hand were, according to Stuart, secured from a large *guanacaste* tree. The colony inhabiting this tree was the only one observed by Stuart at Canibal. The arboreal habits of the species made it difficult to collect.

I am indebted to Dr. L. C. Stuart, for whom the race is named, for the privilege of studying these specimens.

Natural History Miscellanea, a series of miscellaneous papers initiated in 1946 as an outlet for original articles, more or less technical in nature, one to four pages in length, in any field of natural history. Individual issues, published at irregular intervals, are numbered separately and represent only one field of specialization; e. g., botany, geology, entomology, herpetology, etc. The series is distributed to libraries and scientific organizations with which the Academy maintains exchanges. A title page and index will be supplied to these institutions when a sufficient number of pages to form a volume have been printed. Individual specialists with whom the museum or the various authors maintain exchanges receive those numbers dealing with their particular fields of interest. A reserve is set aside for future exchanges and a supply of each number is available for sale at a nominal price. Authors may obtain copies for their personal exchanges at the prevailing rates for similar reprints.

H. K. Gloyd, Director of the Museum.

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